



Japan International
Cooperation Agency



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An Insight into JICA Zimbabwe Activities

JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter

our highlights for this quarter >>>



On March 7, we hosted the Members of Japanese NGO Youth. These are young men and women from Japanese Universities who were touring Zimbabwe to learn about the country and conduct some research. They expressed great interest in the volunteer program as well as JICA projects, particularly in the agriculture, health, and startup sectors. It was a great day with great conversations and interacting with the youth brought about an eagerness for knowledge and to do better, as we shared their zeal for their studies and dreams for the future. We hope they took back what they learnt from Zimbabwe to their college mates and people in Japan.

Read about the
Grant Agreement signing:

<https://www.herald.co.zw/zim-receives-us174m-grant-for-road-improvement/>

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/japan-gives-zimbabwe-us-17-4m-for-north-south-corridor-road-upgrade/>

<https://www.sourcesmedia.com/news/japan-grants-174-million-for-zimbabwe-roads>



On March 8, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Government of Zimbabwe to provide grant aid of up to 2,389 million yen (USD 17.4 million) for the **Project for the Road Improvement of the Northern Part of the North-South Corridor (Phase 2)**.

Following the completion of the Phase 1 of the project in 2021, which provided grant aid of up to USD 21 million and improved 6.5km stretch of road between Marongora and Hell's Gate, Phase 2 will improve 7.8km between Makuti and Marongora.

The project will reduce traffic accidents, relieve traffic congestion, and shorten travel time. Consequently, it will facilitate regional trade and integration as well as promote Zimbabwe's economic and social development. Providing quality infrastructure along the trade corridor will also help achieve sustainable development, together with the Chirundu One-Stop Border Post project that JICA is currently implementing.

Catching up with our JOCVs



Volunteer Baseball Coach attached to the Midlands Baseball Association, Mr. Ayumu Murata, helped the Zimbabwe Baseball Under 23 National team to prepare for the upcoming World Cup Qualifiers that were played in South Africa from February 21.



JOCVs have been unable to resist Zimbabwe's hospitality. After fulfilling their day to day assigned roles at various institutions they are attached to, volunteers in the spirit of living and working together have always found sometime to interact amongst each other and with locals whilst enjoying the hospitality that the country offers.



Mr. Takahiro Hasegawa, a Physical Education volunteer and a Sports Science graduate, is demonstrating exceptional performance at Hillside Teachers' College in Bulawayo.



Our volunteers convened in Harare for a reporting session on March 6. They took this opportunity to give an update on their progress and to address any challenges they are facing. The session gave an insight into the improvements the volunteers have brought to their hosting organisations and communities, in spite of challenges such as traversing the language and cultural divides. We thank our volunteers for their outstanding work, from knowledge sharing with their Zimbabwean counterparts to transforming their learners' lives for the better.



Ms. Seki Ikuko, a Physical Education Volunteer, who was attached to Mkoba Teachers' College completed her assignment in March. She introduced aerobics at the college, attracting both staff and students who expressed their joy in participating in the exercise. The activity, which involves physical rhythmic exercises, improves heart muscle strength, lung function, and blood circulation. The initiative aimed to enhance the health and well-being of students and staff, with the hope that students will promote it in their communities and integrate it in their Physical Education classes with their future students upon graduation. Volunteer activities like Ms. Seki's are part of a broad-based fields available through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer Programme that Zimbabwe can benefit from through its technical cooperation with Japan.

Celebrating 2 years of connectedness



We bid farewell to Project Formulation Advisor, Mr. Masatomo Toyoda whose assignment period ended January 31. As we sadly bid farewell to him, we also celebrated that in the 2 years that he worked with us, he connected people from different spheres of influence, and made project formulation and implementation a resounding success. We wish him great success in his next assignment. Otsukaresamadeshita Toyoda san!



JICA Women Driving Gender Parity and Inclusion for Social Change



As we celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD), we took time to salute Ms. Akiyo Yamauchi, who over the past 2 years worked tirelessly to contribute towards women empowerment and building a society where every individual realises their potential, regardless of gender. Ms. Yamauchi's assignment as a Volunteer Coordinator ended February 26 and even though at JICA Zimbabwe, we were sad to bid her farewell, we can't wait to hear of the positive difference she will make in her next assignment. Ogenkide Yamauchi san!

Celebrating a man of immense knowledge

We celebrated Mr. Ryo Shiga, who completed his 4 year tenure as Volunteer Coordinator on February 26. Mr. Shiga successfully navigated the COVID era and beyond, to ensure that our volunteer program not only remained on track, but it soared to new heights. We will miss Shiga san and how he brought laughter to the office with his amusing jokes and tapping into his wealth of knowledge. We wish him well in his next assignment. Otsukaresamadeshita Shiga san!

JICA for capacity development >>>

Developments in the SHEP Project



The SHEP Approach International Workshop

In the words of the former Japan Prime Minister, Mr. Abe at TICAD V in 2013, “We would like to transition away from agriculture “that enables the farmer to eat” to agriculture “that enables the farmer to earn money.” The JICA project, Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment Promotion (SHEP), which advocates for market-oriented agriculture to practice “Grow to Sell” has indeed achieved this and more. Examples of such great success stories from implementing the SHEP approach in 57 countries were revealed at a hybrid SHEP Approach International Workshop which was held on February 8, bringing together people from over 30 countries. The workshop allowed participants to share and discuss on how they can mainstream the SHEP approach to ensure a wide-area expansion of the SHEP approach and meet the targeted **one million small scale farmers by 2030**.

In Zimbabwe, the project is dubbed ZIM-SHEP and over 6 provinces, 18 districts, 19 irrigation schemes, 2531 farmers and 39 extension workers have benefited from the SHEP approach since commencement of the project in 2019. The beneficiary farmers have praised the approach and have testified of its impressive impact to include:

- ① generating profits throughout the year.
- ② addressing the gender divide; women are also actively involved in farming as a business.
- ③ taking care of their children, sending them to boarding schools, and providing well-balanced meals.
- ④ creating employment for other people to come work at their farms.
- ⑤ building decent homes, buying furniture for their homes, installing solar and buying vehicles.
- ⑥ buying inputs for farming and to reinvest in their farming business.
- ⑦ investing in other businesses, for example constructing shops at the growth point.

JICA promotes investment and business networks between Japan and Zimbabwe

One of our participants, Ms. Felisters Chikandiwa, from Zimbabwe Investment and Development Agency attended the KCCP course “Investment Promotion and Business Environment Reform” course in Japan, from January 19 to March 01, 2024. Ms. Chikandiwa said, “It was a key learning experience for me, both at a professional and social level. It was a full month of sharing knowledge by the highly esteemed resource persons from Japan and a few other selected countries. We learnt current developments and practices in Investment Promotion and Business Environment Reform, as well as the path that Japan has been through in reforming as an economy.” She also enjoyed the social aspect of the trip as she was able to learn about the Japanese culture and way of life, such as and visiting some key tourist and cultural sites.



Ms. Chikandiwa

Contact Us >>>

Dear Reader,
Thank you for taking time to read JICA Zimbabwe Newsletter and thank you for your support during the year. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you want to find out more about our activities and / or if you have any queries / suggestions regarding our newsletter. We value your feedback and your support.

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Fun Fact...

Recipients of the ABE Initiative (past and present) from Southern Africa exchanged ideas during a regional networking hybrid event held on February 16. We got an inspiration boost from Zimbabwean 4th batch ABE recipient, Mr. Promise Murwira who since completing his studies in Japan (2017 - 2019), went on to identify problems in the market and to collaborate with Japanese companies to provide innovative solutions. Through these collaborations, he has gone on to start businesses in ICT, car sale and supplying healthcare products.